

STAFF REPORT
Meeting Date: May 19, 2004

Agenda Item 14

TO: LAFCO Commissioners
FROM: Everett Millais, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Policy Direction – Protection of Watersheds

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and consider the preparation of a LAFCO policy relating to watershed protection, and provide direction to staff.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Parks has requested that this matter be placed on the agenda so the Commission can formally discuss and consider establishing policies relating to watershed protection. Encouraging orderly growth and development and preserving open space and prime agricultural lands are fundamental purposes of LAFCOs. Within this context, and within the broad context of legislative authority granted to LAFCOs, the Commission can and has adopted various local policies. Policies relating to watershed protection can be considered within this overall framework. Perhaps the only major limitation is that the Commission cannot adopt policies that in any way regulate land use.

If the Commission desires to adopt policies relating to watershed protection, it could direct that this be included as a part of the work program for next fiscal year or could direct that staff prepare and return with draft policies for consideration at a specified date. It would also be most helpful if the Commission could articulate any particular factors or criteria that it would like to consider be included in any policies, and how and when any such policy might be applied (e.g. with sphere of influence changes, with changes or organization or reorganization proposals, or both.)

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

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